

## John McNairy to Andrew Jackson, May 12, 1797, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN MCNAIRY TO JACKSON.

Bellview May 12, 1797.

*Sir:* I postponed answering yours of the 9th. instant untill I saw my brother on the subject of my representation expressed by you, on speaking with him, he says that he is not positive, but thinks I am wrong in this, that you did not wish me elected but that the amount of it was that you did not like me, yet you thought I ought to be elected. Whether the information to him was authentic, it is impossible for me absolutely to determine. You mention you will take no further notice of my letter except the last sentence, on which you observe, that *if this sentence is intended to be by me confined to myself, as I have been the agressor that you have only to observe that I need not remain any length of time in my brutish situation* , if you are of opinion that being afraid of standing in a fault is brutish I am content to remain in that brutish situation always, but I am convinced you will agree with me that the man who is not afraid of standing in a fault degrades himself beneath the Charector of a man and consequently a brute. that sentence now under consideration, when wrote was intended to apply to that part of my letter which takes notice of the business of Sharp or to any other circumstance in my life which may have been an error, as a reason for its application. I do not recollect one word in my letter which charges you with want of candor in your last letter from Philadelphia and endeavoured to state my reasons to you, it was impossible for me to tell what would be your reply but I expected candour, therefore it could not apply as by your last stated, Your replication altho. conditional (before you knew my construction) evidences a degree of war[m]th if not a disposition undfriendly to

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a discussion of the differences existing between us. But Sir if any of my words or actions have made me responsible, I am ready to answer for them as honor may direct. I am

P. S. if I should request you for a copy of this letter I hope youl grant me one as I have not a copy of it all and company urging me to start with them.